

Elias Olcott House
Upper Meadows settlement
on the old, colonial
Connecticut Turnpike
Rockingham vicinity
Windham County
Vermont

HABS
VT
13-ROCHA.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ELIAS OLCOTT HOUSE

HABS
VT.
13-ROCKINGHAM, V.
1 -

Location: Upper Meadows settlement on the old, colonial Connecticut Turnpike, Rockingham vicinity, Windham County, Vermont

Present Owner: Paul C. Roundy, Hudson, Ohio

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a typical example of the earliest frame building style in the area, surviving in comparatively unaltered condition.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original Owner: Elias Olcott "Came to the valley in 1763, soon erected the large dwelling on the Farm." (L.S. Hayes).
2. Notes on alterations and additions: House remarkably intact in original form, except for replacement of some windows. Original windows still present second floor. East window second floor, east bedroom: Nine over nine double hung panes, 6"x8". Kitchen partition at rear removed, also one in living room. Brick ell of later date since destroyed. Original whitepine foundation sill, with stones at corners now replaced with brick. Handwrought nails throughout except where repairs on clap board on facade, where new wire nails.
3. Important Old Views listed: Old photograph in town clerk's office.
4. References:
 - a. L. S. Hayes, History of the Town of Rockingham (1907).
 - b. Interview with the present owner, Paul C. Roundy, Hudson, Ohio.

Prepared by Dr. Frank J. Roos, Jr.
University of Illinois
for National Park Service
July 1959

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1-PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Typical example of the earliest building style in the area.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two-and-a-half stories; approximately fifty foot facade.
2. Foundations: Now brick, originally white oak beams set on corner stones.
3. Wall construction: Timber frame. Mortised and pegged beams, some diagonal stiffeners at corners. Clapboard.
4. Chimneys: Central chimney. Clay mortar under roof.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Entrance frontispiece--original paneled and beveled door framing simple boards with seven rectangular lights over door. Lintel angled down and in at ends. East door not original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: No shutters. Five bay front with end windows on facade paired; closer together than to center window and door. Facade windows nine over nine double hung. End windows twelve over twelve double hung.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Simple gable. Shingle, restored. No ridge pole. Rafters pinned, of oak; roof boards, white oak.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Simple, slight moulding profile.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Central chimney type plan. Central stairway, two rooms either side of the first floor. Four rooms on second floor. Partition removed to make new bath. Kitchen ell added later.

2. Stairways: Some restoration to simple baluster and handrail.
3. Flooring: Random Pine boards ranging from 8" to 17".
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Chimney column panelled in wood with four openings, including eaves. Original plaster on ceilings of front 2nd story rooms on Split Lath. Slanted inside corner post in above room.
5. Doorways and doors: Simple four paneled doors, beveled frames.
6. Trim: Chair rails. Plaster on inside of outside walls only, not on interior walls. Horizontal wainscotting in east room of pine, panels 28" wide, batten mouldings.
7. Hardware: Some replaced, but original latch on south bedroom door entering hall. Hand made nails throughout most of house. Strap H and L hinges throughout.
8. Lighting: Electric. No original fixtures.
9. Heating: Fireplaces.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Overlooks Connecticut River Valley. Close to side road, once Connecticut River Turnpike. The house faces east.
2. Enclosures: Open
3. Outbuildings: Detached barn of later date.
4. Landscaping: Shade trees, Small enclosed garden, Shrubs, etc. Pine grove at rear.

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